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12

ORIGIN AF-04

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 /005 R

66610

DRAFTED BY: AF/W:CLDARIS:IW

APPROVED BY: AF/W:RKSHERWOOD

DISTRIBUTION: NONE INDICATED

----- 103811

R 112038Z DEC 73

FM SECSTATE WASHDC

INFO AMEMBASSY ACCRA 6931

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FOR SMITH

FOLLOWING REPEAT ABIDJAN 8458 ACTION SECSTATE INFO BAMAKO DAKAR
COTONOU LOME NIAMEY OUAGADOUGOU 08 DEC

QUOTE

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E O 11652: NA

TAGS: OREP

SUBJ: CONGRESSMAN FAUNTROY MEETING WITH AFDB PRESIDENT LABIDI

1. CONGRESSMAN FAUNTROY ACCCOMPANIED BY BISHOPS PERRY AND DUNSTAN CALLED ON PRESIDENT LABIDI OF AFRICAN DEVELOPMENT BANK DECEMBER 7 TO DISCUSS (1) BANK'S ROLE IN DEALING WITH SAHEL DROUGHT PROBLEMS AND (2) QUESTION OF US CONTRIBUTION TO BANK'S SPECIAL FUND (WHICH WILL BE PRINCIPAL SOURCE OF FUNDS FOR BANK-SUPPORTED PROJECTS IN SAHEL). CONGRESSMAN ASSURED LABIDI HE WOULD EMPLOY HIS EFFORTS TO INSURE US TOOK PROPER COGNIZANCE OF ITS RESPONSIBILITIES IN BOTH REGARDS.

2. BOTH EMBASSY AND LABIDI PROVIDED CONGRESSMAN WITH BACKGROUND ON AFDB'S APPROACH TO SAHEL PROBLEMS, INCLUDING LIST OF

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PROPOSED PROJECTS TO BE SUPPORTED BY SPECIAL FUND. LABIDI

LAMENTED LACK OF COORDINATION. COMPLEXITY AND OVERLAP IN INTERNATIONAL APPROACH TO SAHEL EMERGENCY, MENTIONING PARTICULARLY INEFFICACY UN COORDINATION. HE FELT US SHOULD TAKE MORE FORCEFUL ROLE IN GALVANIZING INTERNATIONAL EFFORT. LABIDI SAID US SHOULD CONCENTRATE ON THREE ASPECTS OF PROBLEM:

(1) CONTINUING FOOD CRISIS. COUNTRIES OF SAHEL WOULD NEED FURTHER 1.5 MILLION (SIC) TONS OF RELIEF GRAIN BEFORE 1975 HARVEST;
(2) REHABILITATION, INCLUDING IMPROVED COMMUNICATIONS AND HEALTH MEASURES;
(3) RECONSTRUCTION PROJECTS, WITH PARTICULAR FOCUS ON TECHNOLOGICAL KNOW-HOW US CAN BRING TO BEAR ON SAHEL RESOURCES. LABIDI SAID WATER WAS SAHEL'S GREATEST NEED AND WE SHOULD BE ABLE TO MAP AND DEVELOP (THROUGH SUCH MIRACLES AS SATELLITE PHOTOGRAPHY) UNDERGROUND WATER RESOURCES SO SAHEL COULD DEVELOP IRRIGATED CULTIVATION, RELIEVING DEPENDENCE ON UNCERTAIN RAINFALL.

3. AS FOR US CONTRIBUTION TO AFDB SPECIAL FUND, CONGRESSMAN VOLUNTEERED HE FOUND PROPOSED \$15 MILLION OVER THREE YEARS SMALL IN CONTRAST WITH SUMS BEING DISCUSSED FOR IDA AND INTERAMERICAN AND ASIAN DEVELOPMENT BANKS. LABIDI READILY AGREED AND RECALLED THAT IN LATE SIXTIES US DISCUSSED CONTRIBUTION OF \$60 MILLION. CONGRESSMAN THOUGHT US CONTRIBUTION OF \$50 OR \$60 MILLION WOULD BE MORE LIKE IT.

4. CONGRESSMAN SAID HE FOUND DISCUSSION WITH PRESIDENT LABIDI EXTREMELY HELPFUL AND PROMISED TO DO HIS UTMOST WHEN BACK IN US TO BRING GREATER PUBLIC AND PRIVATE ATTENTION TO BEAR ON AFRICAN NEEDS.
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Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptoning: X
Capture Date: 01 JAN 1994
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: MEETINGS
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 11 DEC 1973
Decaption Date: 01 JAN 1960
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Authority: collinp0
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 28 MAY 2004
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1973STATE242106
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: AF/W:CLDARIS:IW
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: N/A
Errors: N/A
Film Number: n/a
From: STATE
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1973/newtext/t19731231/aaaaawsy.tel
Line Count: 92
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE
Office: ORIGIN AF
Original Classification: LIMITED OFFICIAL USE
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 2
Previous Channel Indicators:
Previous Classification: LIMITED OFFICIAL USE
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Reference: n/a
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Authority: collinp0
Review Comment: n/a
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 09 JAN 2002
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review History: RELEASED <09-Jan-2002 by willialc>; APPROVED <08 MAR 2002 by collinp0>
Review Markings:

Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
30 JUN 2005

Review Media Identifier:
Review Referrals: n/a
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: CONGRESSMAN FAUNTROY MEETING WITH AFDB PRESIDENT LABIDI
TAGS: OREP, OVIP, (FAUNTROY)
To: ACCRA
Type: TE
Markings: Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 30 JUN 2005